

LINK-UP

DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Bulletin No. 6

June 1993

THE
CONSTITUTION
AND
BYE-LAWS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

*Adopted at a Meeting of the Executive Council,
held on Tuesday, 14th May, 1907.*

Belfast.

1907.

All matter for publication in Bulletin No. 7
should reach

The Honorary Editor

LINK - UP

Farranshane

Greystones

Co. Wicklow

not later than the first week in September

A NOTE FROM THE HONORARY EDITOR

The Presbyterian Church may be said to have been history-conscious ever since its formal establishment in Ireland three-and-a-half centuries ago. Our two earliest historians were Patrick Adair (1624-1694), an alumnus of Scotland's oldest university, St. Andrews, and James Kirkpatrick, DD, MD (Glasgow) (1676-1743), whose father, the Rev. Hugh Kirkpatrick, a native of Dumfriesshire, was acquainted with his fellow-countryman Adair. The Kirkpatricks, father and son, were both elected to the office of Moderator of the General Synod of Ulster. Dr Kirkpatrick's work, usually referred to as Presbyterian loyalty, was printed in Belfast in 1713; but Mr Adair's manuscript Narrative appears to have lain perdu until Professor William Dool Killen (1806-1902) edited a transcript of it and had it printed in Belfast in 1866. The following year saw the publication of the definitive edition of the Church's History by Professor James Seaton Reid (1798-1851), much of the third and final volume of which had been written by Dr Killen.

During the decades that followed Hamilton and Witherow, Irwin and Latimer, the two Stewarts, David of Cregagh and his namesake of Muckamore, as well as Dr Woodburn and Principal Davey, all made most useful contributions to ecclesiastical history. In our own day the short histories by Barkley, Anderson and Holmes have proved to be most acceptable and authoritative sources of information about our Church's past, while The narrow ground: patterns of Ulster history by Dr Tony Stewart of Queen's University provides us with a respected academic historian's stimulating analysis.

There is a nineteenth-century history of the Church by William Cleland of which I have yet no copy: other such works may have eluded me too. But there must be hardly a church in Christendom which has had its history written so many times as has the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Yet is it not strange that in the matter of preserving our records we have been more than a little careless? Anyone who has ever tried to compile a congregational history or, say, write a biography of a minister of the Church will know what I mean. As long ago as 1829 a Dublin-based minister and historian, James Armstrong, MA (Dublin) and afterwards DD (Geneva) and MRIA, has this to say:

...In the progress of my researches...I have in general found that the records of consistories or vestry-meetings, and also the registries (sic) of baptisms and marriages (which would afford the most accurate and

interesting sources of information), have either been lost or have not been kept with sufficient regularity. The same observation may, I apprehend, be applied to a great majority of the Presbyterian congregations in Ireland, and perhaps to churches of every denomination. Much evil arises from neglect or inaccuracy in these matters. I have known instances in which just claims to large properties have been frustrated, for want of the legal certificate of a marriage or baptism.

To ensure regularity in these important affairs the committee of elders in every congregation ought to have a stated annual examination of the registries. Presbyteries too ought to make diligent inquiry whether the congregational books within their bounds be kept with exactness, and also whether they be in safe custody. It would be of great utility and importance to the Presbyterian interest to have some general depository of its records. Many valuable manuscript books, both of congregations and of presbyteries, have perished, in consequence of being left in the possession of individual ministers or elders.

There would not be much difficulty or great expense in forming such a depository...; and I am persuaded that it would soon be enriched with many interesting fragments of Presbyterian history, now scattered in various quarters, which may otherwise be lost or fall into decay. A place for this purpose, secured from the accident of fire, put under the control of a select committee, and made easily accessible, would be of the greatest advantage to the whole Presbyterian body in Ireland, in the collecting and preservation of their records. I hope this suggestion may be taken up by my brethren in Ulster.

Urgent as Armstrong regarded the provision of an archive close on four score years were to elapse before his sensible suggestion was finally implemented. The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland was set up on 14 May 1907, its constitution having been drafted (according to the Linen Hall Library's Irish-interest catalogue) by Alexander Albert Campbell, solicitor and bibliophile. It is pleasant to be able to record that a Southern minister, the Rev. Henry Patterson Glenn, BA (Dublin), afterwards Moderator of the General Assembly, DD and a Senator of Saorstát Éireann, was an original Council member and that he donated material for the Society's archive. Dr Glenn, who was ordained at Tullamore in 1884, afterwards laboured in Bray.

We remarked in Bulletin No. 4 (October 1992) that the Society had eighty-five years of activity to its credit (now eighty-six!) and that we hoped to publish an article about it. We are fortunate and thankful to have as our guest contributor to this issue the present joint editor of the Society's *Bulletin*, John G W Erskine, who is also a Council member of the Society. Mr Erskine is a son of the manse, an elder of Belmont Presbyterian Church and a librarian at Stranmillis College. A graduate of Dublin University, he pursued his library studies at the Queen's University of Belfast.

... ..

I regret that I fell into the same error this summer as I did last year — that of failing to remember that there is no June meeting of Presbytery (due to the General Assembly meeting) and that distribution of the Bulletin would have to await the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, 6 July. Our congregational contributors are somewhat fewer this time; but I am more than grateful to all those who have sent in material and also to our printers for their civility and the quality of their work. May God bless you all!

... ..

BLOCKISH PRESBYTERS, FLEAS AND WOMEN

The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland

'A pox upon dissenters,' wrote the great eighteenth-century Dean of St Patrick's, Jonathan Swift, in one of his less enlightened moments. 'I would as soon trouble my head by writing against a louse or a flea.' Needless to say he did go on to write against those dissenters, or Presbyterians, in a flood of typical invective. But Swift wasn't the first well-known literary figure to be so dismissive of Irish Presbyterians. 'Blockish Presbyters' and 'unhallowed priestlings' acting with 'devillish malice, impudence and falsehood' are among the less than generous descriptions of the Belfast Presbytery — 'that unchristian synagogue' — which were used in the previous century by the great poet John Milton. Perhaps it's as well he stuck to poetry.

These are only a couple of the surprising things that a study of our Presbyterian past reveals. But, let's be honest. At first sight, Irish Presbyterian history doesn't exactly grab the imagination, does it? Images of dreary nineteenth-century clerics and remote theological disputes appear, at first, to be the stuff of such history. And of course they're part of it. But our history is also about other things. It's about ordinary men and women in the pew: how they lived, how they worshipped and how they socialized. It's about the politics of Ireland: the ideology of the United Irishmen, the agitation for tenant-right, and Home Rule.

And of course, it's about the great emigration of the Scotch-Irish. All this and much more.

Unpromising beginnings

Readers of this newsletter will be aware of last year's celebration — the 350th anniversary of the formation of the first presbytery at Carrickfergus in 1642. Mind you the evidence of one of the early ministers wasn't exactly optimistic about the possibility of establishing the reformed faith in Ireland. Of the settler community in early seventeenth-century Ireland Rev. Andrew Stewart wrote: 'From Scotland came many, and from England not a few, yet all of them generally the scum of both nations...'

Looking at our history

So how do we get at Presbyterian history? Books and pamphlets there are, of course, but there is also the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland which exists to promote and encourage the study of Irish Presbyterian history, including the Non-Subscribing and Reformed traditions. With its headquarters in Church House it houses a library of several thousand items and a museum of relevant artefacts — from communion tokens, old communion sets, pitch pipes to Henry Cooke's desk — and promotes a programme of events and publications.

So what does the Society do?

The Society holds about five meetings a year, and these usually take the form of a lecture. Recent topics have included the changing role of women in the church; the life and work of W F Marshall, the Bard of Tyrone; and the Rhyming Weavers, that group of Presbyterian poets who flourished in the first half of the last century. Each year we also hold the Robert Allen Memorial Lecture, a lecture given by distinguished academics: lecturers have included J C Beckett, A T Q Stewart and Gordon Rupp. One lecturer, Rev. Dr Godfrey Brown, took as his topic the famous Dublin minister, Joseph Boyse.

Our meeting in June is our field trip and has become one of our most popular events. Last year, of course, the venue for our field trip was Carrickfergus and district — the castle, the grave of the first Presbyterian minister in Ireland, St Nicholas' parish church and other interesting locations. The year before we visited the Ulster American Folk Park with its obvious Presbyterian connections, and this year the location will be the Ards peninsula with, among other things, its United Irish associations. Being a Presbyterian 'do', of course, we usually end up in some congregation for a generous and, after all the exercise, a very necessary spot of refreshment.

Join us!

Unlike many local historical societies, the Presbyterian Historical Society is by no means a new formation: it was in fact established in the first decade of this century. Furthermore, it is not an organization for Presbyterians interested in history: it is a society for those interested in Presbyterian history and therefore includes in its membership members of many denominations and none.

If you're interested, why not join us? For details of membership, currently £5.00 annually, and details of our activities and publications, contact:

The Assistant Secretary,
Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland,
Room 218,
Church House,
Fisherwick Place,
Belfast BT1 6DW

John Erskine

ABBEY

Jean Wynne of the PA office died just as our last issue was going to press. The February issue of the *Abbey Magazine* carried a fitting tribute to her:

The congregation, especially those associated with the Girls' Brigade, will have learnt with great regret of the death of Mrs Jean Wynne. Jean was Captain of Abbey Girls' Brigade for a very long time and had many friends in Abbey. There was a large attendance at the beautiful service for her held in Drumcondra Church of Ireland, and addressed by our own minister. Deep and loving sympathy goes to her daughter Elaine and to her mother Mrs Robertson.

Jean, who was only in her early sixties, passed away after an illness of a few months' duration. She was predeceased by her husband Bill a couple of years ago. A wonderfully efficient person, she will also be remembered with affection by congregational agents for the *Presbyterian Herald*, who were sure to get a cheerful 'phone call as soon as each issue of the magazine arrived in Dublin for collection and distribution.

The Clerk of Session of Abbey congregation, Kenneth Caird, also paid affectionate tribute to Jean and her work in his Report for the Year 1992, printed in the March issue of the *Magazine*.

ADELAIDE ROAD DONORE

We are very glad that six new elders have recently been elected by our congregation and that the date of their ordination has been set for Sunday evening 30 May. They are Ian Black, Hugh Dunlop, Ken Gillanders, Annie Patton, Myrtle Thompson and Tommy Wilson.

On Saturday afternoon 26 June we hope to hold a church fête at the manse garden, 5 Maple Road, Clonskeagh. Everybody is warmly welcome to this event.

As in the last two years it is our aim to hold a children's holiday club for the youngsters of our local community during the first full week of July. This is an event run by a team of volunteers from the congregation and entails providing activities for the children aged 5 - 10 years such as crafts, Bible stories, games and singing. We value your prayers for this important event. One of our young people James Fitzgerald has been selected by the Youth Board to be one of the summer team helping out in a Church setting in Southern Spain.

It is always a joy to be able to welcome people at morning worship (11.00 o'clock) during the summer from literally all over the world. This enriches our sense of the wider Church and encourages us to pray for needs in many places.

Frank Sellar

ARKLOW AND GREYSTONES

'Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth (and let Ireland be in the forefront). Proclaim the power of God....You are awesome in your sanctuary, O God.'

(from Psalm 68)

Arklow and Greystones wish you joy and peace from God Our Father and from His Son, our Lord Jesus! Joy — because of the way He is developing His Church in our land! and peace (that wholeness of spirit) as we go forward with Him! It is marvellous to see how God has added to our whole team with the coming of Fred Vincent, John Corcoran, Ruth Gregg, Maurice Brown, Stephen Johnston and their partners. With Steve Stockman's contacts among young people growing all the time and Diane Petherick's acceptance by the Irish Mission; with the news of congregations all round the land beginning to stir to meet the hunger

in the hearts of many people — these are all signs that God is being gracious to us as a Presbyterian Church and making His face to shine on us. Let us as a people praise Him!

Arklow and Greystones are experiencing some of this God-given refreshment and have been encouraged in it by the visits of David Temple (Irish Mission), Ossie McAuley (Sunday Schools) and nurses from the Hospital Christian Fellowship based in the Adelaide Hospital. Diane Petherick led evenings of Praise and Drama and was the Musical Director for our Broadcast Service on Radio 1 in April. We also shared a dinner in the La Touche Hotel with the C of I parishes of Greystones and Delgany. That was a fun time.

Arklow hosted the Good Friday Service this year. We also were greatly involved in the Peace March through the town. At least 2,000 people walked the route of the five churches, with readings and prayers for peace at each place. St Saviour's C of I was given an external lighting system, its warm glow making their lovely building a real landmark on a dark night. We are getting ready for our summer friends. We worship every Sunday at 9.30 a.m. and we are planning to have our Holiday Bible Club from 16 to 20 August (D.V.).

Greystones has been encouraging a group of two dozen youth to share their ideas of worship and will fully back the CSSM team coming from 17 to 30 July. The Peace Rally in the Park and the opening of the new Tennis Club brought together a broad section of the community. We have just had the Visitation by a Commission of Presbytery and are very thankful for their most positive approach and thoughtful Finding which the Congregation will hear in September.

So Happy Days to you all! May the Lord enrich you in His Grace! If you are visiting in the area please join us for Sunday worship at 11.30 and 7.30.

Jim Carson

FAMILY REUNION

These are exciting times for Beatrice Gunning of Greystones congregation, who has just returned from visiting her relatives and attending her nephew's wedding in Scarborough, Ontario. The groom, Graham Bradley, is only son of Beatrice's sister Sybil and Desmond Bradley, who were married in Greystones Presbyterian Church where Sybil's father, Sydney Thompson, served on Committee. The couple were home from Canada for their fortieth wedding anniversary a couple of years ago. Their daughter Rosemary (now Mrs Jones) was one of three baby girls baptized on the same day during the Rev. Robert Knox Lyle's ministry. It's believed to have been the only occasion in the history of the congregation when three children received the Sacrament of Baptism together.

The other two babies baptized on that occasion were Jean McFarland (now Mrs Hatton) and Dorothy Calder (now Mrs Evans), both of whose fathers were elected to the eldership.

Beatrice's most exciting news is that her brother, Billy Thompson, a college lecturer, is coming home from New Zealand to Greystones for eight weeks on his first visit in nearly forty years. Other relatives will be converging on Greystones too; so it's going to be quite a family reunion and John and Beatrice Gunning are, with the help of their son and two daughters, all of whom live in Greystones, busily preparing for the big event. Beatrice won't have to worry about 'feeding the multitude' anyway: her daughter Averil is a competent caterer.

Hon. Ed.

BALLINA AND KILLALA

It was with regret that we heard of the death of the Rev. Matthew Bailie on 7 March at Agincourt, Ontario, Canada. Mr Bailie was minister of Ballina and Killala from 1942 to 1946.

Work is under way at present on the interior of Ballina church. Dry-lining, painting and seat renovation are the order of the day. During the period of renovation the Ballina congregation are delighted to share Sunday worship with the Killala congregation.

Geoffrey Shannon

BALLYMOTE

Our Table Tennis Club had a successful season. At Longford Table Tennis Tournament two of our members won two trophies, Mervyn Bright coming first in the men's doubles and Harriet Bell being runner-up in the ladies' doubles. At Sligo Table Tennis Tournament Alan Taylor was runner-up in the men's singles and Alison Taylor runner-up in the ladies' singles.

Our annual Motor Neurone Sale is fixed for 26 May.

Harriet Bell & Edith Thorpe

BLACKROCK: ST ANDREW'S

Our anniversary service this year was held jointly with St Andrew's, Bray, on 16 May when we welcomed the Rev. Geoffrey Skilton, minister of Trinity Church, Tikipunga in New Zealand.

The planned visit of members of Streaton Church, Newtownards, has had to be

postponed till this autumn owing to the arrival of a new minister there.

St Andrew's will be one hundred years old in 1995 and a meeting was held on Monday 26 April to launch our celebration plans. A committee was duly elected and will oversee these. It is hoped to have a number of events both within the congregation and also by way of local outreach.

Our annual Good-as-New Sale was held on Saturday 1 May and raised a record amount of money this year. We thank the fundraising committee for their continued efforts.

This Easter we welcomed Mr Craig Cinnamond as a new communicant. Our congratulations to Craig.

It is with regret that we announce the death of two of our members: Mr Alec Milliken on 3 February and Mrs Margaret Higgins on 3 April.

BRAY: ST ANDREW'S

Our anniversary service was held on 16 May jointly with St Andrew's, Blackrock. The speaker was the Rev. Geoffrey Skilton from New Zealand. Over a hundred people enjoyed a celebration lunch afterwards.

The ecumenical bus tour of Bray will be calling on our church on the afternoon of Saturday 11 July. The Rev. Mr Campbell will welcome the visitors and give a short talk on the history of our church.

Denis Campbell

CLONTARF

Our PWA held a Scottish evening on Saturday 13 February. The Rev. James Brogan acted as MC and delighted everyone with his singing of Scottish airs. The evening also consisted of a demonstration of Scottish dancing with some of those present being brave enough to participate. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

We congratulate Mrs Dorothy Bothwell on her appointment as PWA secretary for the Dublin and Munster Presbytery.

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 25 March with the Rev. Mr Brogan taking the chair for the first time. The ladies' committee provided an excellent supper as usual.

A very successful Spring Mini-Market was held on Saturday 24 April realizing

the sum of over £1,200.00 for Church funds. We thank Miss Jane Mitchell and her band of helpers for all their hard work in making this such a successful venture.

1993 is the Centenary Year of the Girls' Brigade. It commenced with a service of Thanksgiving and Praise in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 3 January in which three Juniors from the 5th Company were chosen to take up the Offering and Sub-Officer Tracey McDermott formed part of the main Colour Party. The Company had a very successful year competition-wise, gaining 1st and 2nd place in the Junior/Senior section and 3rd place in the Explorer section of the Choral Speaking Competitions. The Company were also runners-up in the Battalion Scripture Examination.

Three Brigaders from the Company were chosen to take part in the England/Wales Centenary Display in the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 8 May.

The Company's Annual Display was held on 30 April when a good evening was had by all.

The Centenary Celebration Dinner for members, past members, friends and guests will be held on Saturday 30 October 1993 in the Burlington Hotel. Names and deposits of £11.00 before the end of May to Valerie Quill, please.

The 32nd Company Boys' Brigade have also been successful competition-wise during the year. They won the Lewis Crosby Squad Drill competition and the Silver Drum. Their football team have also been very successful in their matches. The Company Bugle Band took part in the St Patrick's Day Parade as usual.

The Annual Display was held on Saturday 2 April when Miss Henderson, the Principal of Mount Temple Comprehensive School, was the Inspecting Officer.

Baptisms:	14 February	Deborah Anne O'Rourke
	21 March	Amber Elizabeth Martin
	18 April	Evelyn Nicola Dawkins

It is with regret that we record the deaths of Mrs Ada Shaw and Mr Sammy Morton. We offer our deepest sympathy to both their families.

Valerie J Dagg

ORMOND QUAY AND SCOTS

Our minister Rev. James Brogan was chosen 'Man of the Year' in recognition of his 'pastoral care' in the Kells community. He was guest of honour at an evening organised by Kells Chamber of Commerce and was presented with a beautiful piece of crystal.

Maurice and Sandra Brown have arrived in Dublin to take up their new position

with the Dublin Presbytery City Mission and we are delighted to have them worshipping with us. We hope that they will feel very much at home among us.

We wish Ken and Betty Jackson every happiness in their new home and pray that God will bless them in their retirement.

On Friday 5 March 1993 the death took place after a short illness of Mrs Dorothy McNeight. Dorothy was a life-long member of the congregation and a very loyal PWA member. To the family circle we extend our sincere sympathy.

It was with a sense of great shock and sadness that our congregation received the news of the very sudden death of one of our most loyal members, Mr Robert Grealey. Robert was a life-long member of the congregation, a member of the Kirk Session for sixteen years and congregational secretary for over twenty years. He was a man of great personal charm, and to his many abilities in organisation and administration was added the great grace of Christian humility. He gave wise, thoughtful and gracious counsel when this was necessary but always preferred, as the poet says, 'to do good by stealth, and blush to have it known'.

We are much the poorer for his passing, but in our sorrow we give thanks to God for the life and service of a dedicated member and ask that God will continue to bless his wife Gladys, son Trevor and the wider family circle.

'What more can we ask of the Saviour
Than to know we are never alone;
That His mercy and love are unfailing
And He makes all our problems His own'.

Caledonia Badminton Club, Ormond Quay and Scots Church, would welcome new members for the coming season. Teams play in Sections C and F. Nights of play: Monday, Thursday, Saturday. Please contact Secretary Joan Borland at 372672.

Myrtle Bailey

Robert Grealey was a faithful correspondent of LINK-UP. His notes were always clear and concise and were sent in in good time. We are grateful to Myrtle Bailey for contributing the congregational notes to this issue and hope she will find it possible to continue as correspondent. Myrtle served on Ormond Quay and Scots' Kirk Session with the late-lamented Mr Grealey.

Hon. Ed.

DROGHEDA

Ecumenical songs of praise

The annual united service was held in St Peter's Church of Ireland on Wednesday 20 January. The rector, Rev. Precentor Godfrey Bevan, presided and welcomed a very large congregation. Representatives of all the local schools contributed items and all local clergy took part. The offering was for the Irish School of Ecumenics.

Greenhills conference

The speakers at this annual ecumenical conference were Mr David Blakely and Rev. Noel Treanor. The theme was Irish Christians in the New Europe: giving and receiving. There was a large attendance representative of all the main Christian denominations. The new organising secretary is Father John McAreevey from St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Annual sale

Friday 19 February was a red letter day in the life of the church when the yearly sale took place. The attendance, as usual, was huge and goods quickly vanished. Many friendships were renewed and more were made over a cup of tea or coffee. The ladies are to be praised for all their hard work in preparation for this event. All sections of the community participated and their support is very much appreciated. The total raised was £1,353.

World Day of Prayer

The Dominican Church was the venue for the service this year in the Drogheda area.

Congratulations

Raymond McIlreavy, a pupil of Wesley College, has been chosen to play on the Irish Schools' Rugby team. The whole congregation was delighted at such an honour.

ERVEY

United service

This annual expression of unity was hosted by St Ernan's Church of Ireland. The rector, Archdeacon Corrigan, led in worship with members of the congregation

taking part. Rev. C. McCurdy was the preacher. The offering was for the work of the Bible Society.

Ecumenical service

The Kingscourt Community Centre was the venue for this co-operative effort. The parish priest, Father Andrew Farrell, Rev. C. McCurdy and the rector took part. The preacher was the rector, Archdeacon Corrigan. There was a good representation of all the churches in Kingscourt present and the offering was devoted to the work of the Irish School of Ecumenics.

World Day of Prayer

St Ernan's Church hosted this annual event and it was well attended by all local churches.

Bequest

A legacy of £500 was left to the congregation under the will of the late EC Porter, Kells. Much gratitude is felt for this thoughtful action on the part of one who had served his Church so well in days gone by.

Bereavement

Mrs Hilda Shannon suffered a family loss when her sister-in-law, Mrs Amy Reid, Dublin, died on 10 March 1993. Mrs Reid had been in a nursing home for some years and leaves her husband and a son and two daughters. Sympathy is expressed to them in their time of sadness.

Charles McCurdy

DÚN LAOGHAIRE

The June/July/August issue of Dún Laoghaire Presbyterian Church *Newsletter* came through the letter-box just as we were about to go to press. The minister's foreword begins with a cautionary note about the summer break. '...Remember', writes the Rev. David Caskie, 'the derivation of "holiday" is "holy day" and this suggests the wisdom of setting aside a portion of time in order to give thanks to God for his bountiful gifts...So don't miss that sacred hour once per week when the Christian family gathers together to worship'.

An elder of the Church who is known to me and who is now just past the four score once told me that he had never arranged a holiday without first asking himself the question: 'Will I be able to get to church?' If visitors to seaside places such as Dún Laoghaire were to 'give church a miss' during their summer

holidays our congregations would be much the poorer in fellowship for their non-attendance. The joy and elation of welcoming visitors and talking with them, as well as inviting them to take part in our coffee mornings and other activities, is a precious and enriching part of our Christian witness.

KELLS, CORBOY AND MULLINGAR

The three congregations have enjoyed the visits of Rev. Robert Cobain, Information Officer of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. RFS Poots, the Assistant Clerk of the Assembly. The Rev. Kenneth Smyth, recently retired from Drumbo Presbyterian Church after a long and faithful ministry, was another welcome visitor.

All the churches are maintaining a prayerful interest in Rev. George Ferguson who has recently been in hospital but is now progressing satisfactorily.

Deaths

Corboy congregation was saddened by the death of Mrs Duncan, the widow of a former minister, who died in Dublin recently.

Craig McLarnon, son of Rev. J E McLarnon, minister for many years, also died in Oxford.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to their relations.

The convenor thanks all three congregations for the way they have maintained their property, their attendances and for their support, so readily given, during the present vacancy.

Charles McCurdy

RATHGAR: CHRIST CHURCH

We regret that CCR did not contribute to the (excellent) Bulletin No. 5 of LINK-UP. Many factors combined to cause this omission. In the first place, our Minister, the Rev. Mary Hunter, suffered a mild heart attack at the end of October 1992. However, thankfully, she returned to Rathgar in February last. It is fitting to record our thanks to the Rev. Katherine Meyer, who became our interim Moderator during the Minister's absence.

In 1992, CCR embarked upon restoration and renovation work in the Church and of its fabric. A target of £50,000 was set. By way of various functions and individual efforts, it is expected that this target will be met by June 1993. In the meantime, the work has gone ahead and to date we can record the completion of virtually all targets: New ladies' cloakroom/toilets and one for the disabled;

a coffee dock; a completely re-vamped vestry with cupboarding for the security of church valuables and archives; the repair of a potentially very serious roof problem; an almost total renovation of and appointment of the Sexton's lodge. The latest completed task has been the re-painting of the church and lecture hall which included considerable wall repairs and the installation of a new lighting system for the church. While all this was going on a host of minor alterations and repairs were carried out, many voluntarily, and too numerous to detail. The most valuable product of all this activity was the cementing of new friendships within the congregation and the creation of a new sense of purpose and fellowship, and this of itself has made the whole venture worth every penny of the fund which enabled the works to be undertaken and completed.

So much has happened since CCR's last contribution to LINK-UP (Bulletin 4), that it would be impossible to take up much more of your valuable space. Therefore, we will not skip an edition in future. Suffice it to say that if the current spirit of solidarity is maintained, so is the future of the Congregation of Christ Church Rathgar.

Alex Gibson

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Presbyterian Women's Association of the Dublin and Munster Presbytery held their Annual Friendship and Gift Day Service in Abbey Church on Sunday 18 April.

Although numbers were down a little this year we had ladies from as far afield as Arklow and Mountmellick, as well as from Dublin and outlying districts.

The service was conducted by our President, Mrs Betty Jackson, and this year we were privileged to have with us our Central President, Mrs Eileen Armstrong. We are most grateful to Mrs Armstrong for making the journey to be with us and for her inspiring address, which gave us much food for thought.

After the service we were all entertained to tea by the ladies of Abbey Church, when we had time to greet old friends and make new ones.

Dorothy Bothwell
Presbyterial Secretary

WORLD DEVELOPMENT LOBBY

The response of members of our church to appeals made on behalf of world development and relief in the last year has been very generous.

People are, at the same time, becoming more aware that the causes of poverty,

such as unfair trade, also need to be tackled. A report on the causes of poverty will form part of our submission to the General Assembly and a short leaflet will be available for circulation with the Christmas Appeal.

Often we hear appeals for people to write letters or take other appropriate action to influence governments or institutions to act for the benefit of the poor. At present it is difficult for us to act effectively as a list of Presbyterians who would be interested in taking such action does not exist.

The World Development Committee has decided to draw up a list of church members interested in development issues who would be prepared to consider writing to governments or other institutions when the need arises. This would not be more than three times a year. Background information and a specimen letter would be supplied by the World Development Committee on each occasion.

We are looking for a few members from each congregation willing to allow their names to go on such a list. Please contact your minister (who has received full information) if you are interested, or get in touch with me

Katherine Meyer
World Development Agent

1992 World Development Appeal

In 1991, the total amount raised for overseas development work through the World Development Appeal was up £50,000 from the previous year. And in 1992 the total has risen again, up £60,000 on the 1991 total. The good news this year, which all are encouraged to share with their congregations in an appropriate way, is that the 1992 World Development Appeal will be sending a total of £350,000 (Appeal income plus a small amount of interest) to Christian Aid and Tear Fund (on a 50/50 basis, as is the custom) this year.

And it is worth pointing out, too, that this total is in addition to the £182,000 raised for the Malawi Appeal of the Overseas Board in 1992, and to the £200,000 sent by congregations to Christian Aid and Tear Fund in response to the Moderator's letter, sent at the end of last summer, highlighting the ongoing crisis in Africa. Presbyterians in Ireland, as part of our response to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, have given nearly 3/4 million pounds to relief and development work in 1992.

And this is cause for quiet celebration, and encouragement in the renewal of our commitment to the work of world development. Such giving is a sign of deep generosity on the part of many. It is a sign that, as a church, we are growing in our understanding of the importance of long-term support for development work. And it is also, perhaps, a sign that we are coming to recognize more

clearly the courage and persistence and faithfulness of ordinary people who have been engaging in life-giving development work in their own countries all along, and long before we began to support them. It is an honour to be associated with people of such vision through our World Development Appeal. And that is more than enough reason to give thanks.

Katherine Meyer
World Development Agent

KISH: NEW CARE CENTRE AT DELGANY

In Bulletin No. 4 (October 1992) we remarked that on the imminent closure of Sleepy Hollow in Kilquade its retiring owners, Ted and Peggy Delany, expressed to the Eastern Health Board their sincere hope that the necessary alternative services for the handicapped children of Co. Wicklow would be provided elsewhere in the county, so that those children's parents might continue to get occasional relief and respite.

The Board, to its eternal credit and in the face of acute financial stringency, quickly agreed to provide a substantial amount of the funding for the new residential care centre established by the County Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped Ltd. The centre, Kish, a fairly large detached residence at Kindlestown Hill about a mile from Delgany, was opened in the closing days of last year. The nurse in charge is Anne Moore and she has a staff of ten. Kish is designed to provide residential, respite and crisis care services to the handicapped and will always have one of its nine bed spaces reserved for emergency and crisis situations in families.

The opening and day-to-day running of Kish have already been allocated generous space in the two local newspapers, the Bray People and the Wicklow Times while its establishment has been hailed in the May Newsletter of the Co. Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped as 'the highlight of the year'. It says that 'already over three-quarters of our children have enjoyed a break at Kish'.